30. (New) The apparatus, as recited in claim 29, wherein the second section of the cover extends across the opening.

31. (New) The apparatus, as recited in claim 1, wherein the first section of the cover extends across the opening.

32. (New) The apparatus, as recited in claim 31, wherein the second section of the cover extends across the opening.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 12, 22, 23, and 28 have been amended. Claims 13, 20-21, and 27 have been cancelled. Claims 29-32 have been added. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 9. Claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 28. Claims 1, 7-12, 18-19, 22-26, and 28-32 are pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 7-13, and 18-28 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Regarding claims 1 and 23, lines 12 and 13 respectively, the Examiner stated that the limitation "the critical element" has insufficient antecedent basis. Claims 1 and 23 have been amended accordingly.

The Examiner also stated that in claim 1, line 14, and claim 23, line 15, that the phrase "a critical element" renders the claim indefinite. Claims 1 and 23 have been amended accordingly.

The Examiner also stated that the limitation "the support between the second section and the first section" in line 15 has an insufficient antecedent basis and that it is unclear if the applicant is referring to an additional element or the point at which the second element is supported by the first element as previously claimed in lines 9-10 of the claim. Claim 1 has been amended accordingly.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 7-13, and 18-28 were under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by Tanaka et al., U.S. Patent 6,422,172. Tanaka does not disclose a vacuum tight seal between the first section of the cover and the second section of the cover, as recited in claims 1 and 23, as amended. In addition, Tanaka does not recite that the critical element extends into the main cavity from the first section. The critical element of Tanaka is even with

the first section, but does not extend into the main cavity from the first section, as shown in Figure 1 of Tanaka. For at least these reasons, claims 1 and 23 are not anticipated by Tanaka.

Claims 7-12, 18-19, 22, 24-26 and 28-32 are ultimately dependent on claims 1 and 23, and are therefore respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 23. Additionally, these dependent claims require additional elements that when taken in the context of the claimed invention, further patentably distinguish the art of record. For example, claims 9, 12, and 28, as amended, recite a vacuum tight seal between the first section and the vacuum chamber wall. Since the first section 5 of Figure 1, of Tanaka, is entirely within the chamber there is not a need to have a vacuum tight seal between the first section and the chamber wall. In addition, claims 29-32, recite that the first section extends across the opening. The first section 5 in Figure 1 of Tanaka does not extend across the opening, but only around the opening, forming a large aperture which receives the electrode 2. For at least these reasons, claims 7-12, 18-19, 22, 24-26 and 28-32 are not anticipated or made obvious by the cited references.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at telephone number (831) 655-2300.

Respectfully submitted,
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CLEAN VERSION OF ALL PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a vacuum chamber wall defining a main cavity and an opening;

an exhaust port in fluid connection with the main cavity for establishing a vacuum in the main cavity;

a cover for sealing the opening when the cover is supported by the chamber wall, comprising:

a first section adjacent to the main cavity, wherein the first section of the cover is supported by the chamber wall;

a second section on a side of the first section opposite of the main cavity, wherein the second section is supported by the first section;

a pocket between the first section and the second section; and

a vacuum tight seal between the first section and the second section; and

a critical element supported by a region of the first section and extending into the main cavity from the first section, wherein support of the second section by the first section is not above support of the critical element by the first section, wherein the pocket extends above the region of the first section upon which the critical element is supported.

7. (Once Amended) The apparatus, as recited in claim 1, wherein the critical element is an electrode, and further comprising a channel extending from the main cavity to the pocket.

8. The apparatus, as recited in claim 7, further comprising a radio frequency power source electrically connected to the electrode.

9. (Once Amended) The apparatus, as recited in claim 8, wherein the cover further comprises a vacuum tight seal between the first section and the vacuum chamber wall.

10. The apparatus, as recited in claim 1, further comprising a channel extending between the pocket and the main cavity.

11. The apparatus, as recited in claim 10, wherein the pocket extends substantially across the opening.

12. (Once Amended) The apparatus, as recited in claim 11, wherein the cover further comprises a vacuum tight seal between the first section and the vacuum chamber wall.

13. (Cancelled)

18. The apparatus, as recited in claim 1, wherein the second section is supported by the first section only where the first section is supported by the chamber walls.

19. The apparatus, as recited in claim 18, wherein the critical element is an electrode.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. The apparatus, as recited in claim 1, wherein the critical element is an electrode and further comprising a radio frequency power source electrically connected to the electrode.

23. (Once Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a vacuum chamber wall defining a main cavity and an opening;

an exhaust port in fluid connection with the main cavity for establishing a vacuum in the main cavity;

a cover for sealing the opening when the cover is supported by the chamber wall, comprising:

a first section adjacent to the main cavity, wherein the first section of the cover is supported by the chamber wall;

a second section on a side of the first section opposite of the main cavity, wherein the second section is supported by the first section only where the first section is supported by the chamber walls; and

a pocket between the first section and the second section; and

a vacuum tight seal between the first section and the second section; and

a critical element supported by a region of the first section and extending into the main cavity from the first section, wherein the pocket extends above the region of the first section upon which the critical element is supported.

24. The apparatus, as recited in claim 23, wherein the critical element is an electrode.

25. The apparatus, as recited in claim 24, further comprising a radio frequency power source electrically connected to the electrode.

26. The apparatus, as recited in claim 25, further comprising a channel extending between the pocket and the main cavity.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Once Amended) The apparatus, as recited in claim 23, wherein the cover further comprises a vacuum tight seal between the first section and the vacuum chamber wall.

29. (New) The apparatus, as recited in claim 23, wherein the first section of the cover extends across the opening.

30. (New) The apparatus, as recited in claim 29, wherein the second section of the cover extends across the opening.

31. (New) The apparatus, as recited in claim 1, wherein the first section of the cover extends across the opening.

32. (New) The apparatus, as recited in claim 31, wherein the second section of the cover extends across the opening.